

## LWV OF KENTUCKY

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Leaguers Join March on Washington See. Pg 4-5

# The Kentucky Voter



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## Join Us Feb. 7 for Lobby Day at the Capitol!

By **NITA SMITH** and **TERRY NAYDAN**

Making our voices heard in Frankfort will be even more important this year. That's why it's so important that we show up on Feb. 7 for the League of Women Voters' Lobby Day.

We *all* have the important job of getting League members to attend and provide a good audience for our panel of professional lobbyists who are volunteering their time to help us become well versed in lobby techniques.

We have asked the American Association of University Women and the Business and Professional Women of Ken-



tucky to join us. All visitors are welcome. Please feel free to invite someone you know who might be interested. As in the past, we will each be responsible for our lunch downstairs in the cafeteria.

If you would like to invite your legislator to stop by during lunch, that would be great. If you plan on staying for the afternoon session, please let us know so that we may reserve tickets.

### IN

Presidents' Message	2
10 Ways to Defend our Democracy	2
Report on Frankfort	3
Charter Schools	3
March on Washington	4-5
LWV Board	6
Calendar	6

### Schedule

10 to 11: 30 a.m.	Panel of expert lobbyists, Capitol Annex, Room 125
11:30 a.m.	Lunch in the Capitol Annex
Afternoon	Committee meetings and appointments with legislators
4 p.m.	State House and Senate convene

# Presidents' Message



By **TERRY NAYDAN**  
and **NITA SMITH**

A new term in the Kentucky legislature has begun. For the first time in our lifetimes, Republicans control both houses and the governorship. It should be very interesting to see how these changes affect this short legislative session.

Thus far, seven bills, — including two labor bills and a bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks gestation — have been passed by the new Republican majorities and signed into law.

The legislature has adjourned and will return on Feb. 7 to continue its work. Fortunately, Tuesday, Feb. 7, is also the League Lobby Day,

or "Our Day at the Legislature." We hope you can join us in Frankfort to spend the day observing how the legislature works. We meet at 10 a.m. in Meeting Room 125 in the Capitol Annex. We have been able to arrange for a panel of professional lobbyists who have agreed to talk to us about citizen lobbying, followed by a question-and-answer session.

You can then visit your own legislator. Please call (502) 564-8100 to make an appointment to visit after our morning meeting. After lunch together, you may then want to observe either the House or Senate in ac-

tion during their afternoon session. Please call or email either one of us if you want to observe a session, as we need to make arrangements for getting tickets for you.

During this time of transition and uncertainty in our country, it's good to go back and revisit League goals and principles. We still want to make democracy work for everyone. We also want to make sure that all of our citizens are well-informed before they vote, and we hope that they all choose to vote during election time. We need an active League of Women Voters in our country today as much we did almost a hundred years ago.

Co-presidents, from top to bottom: Terry Naydan and Nita Smith  
Contact them at: TerryNaydan@aol.  
Com or NitaVotes@aol.com  
Or 502-875-6481

## 10 Ways You Can Help Defend Our Democracy

By **SARAH COURTNEY**

- 1. Sign the League of Women Voters' Petition.** "I stand with the League to ensure that elections are always free, fair and accessible. I will work with the League to stop the voter-suppression tactics that threaten our democracy."
- 2. Become an e-Activist.** Receive updates from the League and hold your elected officials accountable.
- 3. Volunteer Your Time.**

- 4. Donate to Our Defend Democracy Fund.** Your support allows the League to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms nationwide.
- 5. Spread the Word.** Stay engaged everyday and involve followers on Facebook and Twitter, too.
- 6. Attend a Community Meeting.**
- 7. Register to Vote and Help Others Register, Too.**
- 8. Contact Your Elected Officials.**

- 9. Run for Office Yourself.** From school board to State House, you can make a difference.
- 10. Write a Letter to the Editor.** Sarah is Senior Director of Communications & Digital Strategy at LWVUS in Washington, D.C. Visit [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) for more details.

### Ky Legislative Lines

To leave a message for your state representatives, check bill status and daily calendars call:

Legislative Message Line	(800) 372-7178
Bill Status Line	(866) 840-2835
Calendar (Meetings) Line	(800) 633-9650
TTY Message Line	(800) 896-0305
En español	(866) 840-6574

These toll-free numbers work only in Kentucky

# Report on First Week of 2017 Legislative Session

By **NITA SMITH** and  
**TERRY NAYDAN**

The 2017 Legislative Session is a short session: just 30 days.

Usually the first week of the session is for electing leadership and forming committees, but, to our surprise, the Legislature passed seven bills out of both chambers which have been signed by the governor.

## Labor

**HB3** repealed the prevailing wage which required contractors to pay workers a specified minimum wage rate to work on government projects. Without a prevailing wage, workers could be brought in from other states and paid lower wages. We **opposed** this bill.

**HB1** prohibits mandatory membership in a labor union as a condition of employment. The bill allows some people to take advantage of collective bargaining benefits without paying their fair share. We **opposed** this bill.

**SB6** prevents employees from being enrolled in labor organizations or having money withheld from their earnings for union dues unless they give written permission. We **opposed** this bill.

## Women's Rights

**SB5** bans abortion for any woman who is more than 20 weeks pregnant. There is no exception for rape nor incest. We **opposed** this bill, as women should be making decisions about their own bodies, in consultation with their physician, and their faith.

**HB2** requires a doctor to perform an ultrasound and gives a woman a chance to see images and hear a fetal heart-beat, if she wishes. Again this personal decision belongs to a woman and not the legislature.

## Transparency

**SB3** expands open records laws to include legislators' retirement benefits. We **support** this bill, as taxpayers deserve to have this information available to them.

## Restructuring the University of Louisville Board of Trustees

We oppose this bill as it endangers the university's accreditation.

Because Governor Matt Bevin has signed these bills under an emergency clause, they went into effect immediately.

The legislature will be back in Frankfort for the remaining 25 days starting Feb. 7. We hope to be able to support remaining proposed bills with enthusiasm.



## *HB103 Opens Door to For-Profit Charters*

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

HB103 is one of the bills to introduce charter schools to Kentucky, and it's believed to be the one backed by Governor Matt Bevin. Sadly, it contains many of the components that have led to corruption, self-dealing, lowered standards, and even criminal convictions in other states.

HB103 does not require charter schools to hire certified teachers. Research shows that the biggest effect on student learning is having a quality, certified teacher — something parents take for granted in public schools.

HB103 also allows for-profit Education Management Organizations (EMOs). These are companies that contract with charter schools to run them. Even though EMOs get public tax money, they're not subject to public or parental input, and much of their records aren't available to the public.

HB103 doesn't limit the number of charter schools. In Michigan, which doesn't have a cap either, there are so many charter schools that no school can be filled to capacity — indeed, there are 30,000 more placement spots than available students. That's what HB103 is bringing to Kentucky.

The lack of transparency with charter schools has led to some questionable practices. Nineteen of Philadelphia's 84 charter schools — that's nearly one-fourth — were under federal investigation in 2011. That's one city, one year.

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky will be following HB103 and other proposed charter school legislation during this session.

## LWV Members March in D.C., Kentucky

By **IVONNE ROVIRA**

Members of the League of Women Voters from across the country traveled to Washington, D.C., for the historic Women's March on Washington Jan. 21. An estimated 470,000 attended.

Across the nation, League members gathered in 673 other cities — including Hopkinsville, Lexington, Louisville, Murray and others — in what was called Sister Marches to support the principles of nonviolence, beloved community, and that women's rights are

human rights. It's estimated that 4.8 million attended the Sister Marches in the United States and several other countries.

In a statement, the Women's March on Washington said: "We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families, recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country."

"The rhetoric of the past election cycle has

insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us: immigrants of all statuses, Muslims and those of diverse religious faiths, people who identify as LGBTQIA, Native people, Black and Brown people, people with disabilities, and survivors of sexual assault. Our communities are hurting and scared....

"In the spirit of democracy and in honor of the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore."



Above, Caroline Self and her granddaughter Audrey Self in Murray. At left, Amelia Stewart and Fannie Louise Maddux, also in Murray.





Above left, Nicole Yates and Heather Hurley in Louisville at one of 673 Sister Marches. Above right, Pam Ison (on left) of the League of Women Voters of Hopkinsville with friends were among the estimated 470,000 from across the country who descended on Washington, D.C., on Jan. 21 for the Women's March on Washington. At left, Tee Bergman, Judy Johnson and Barbara Sterrett in Lexington. Below left, Linda Cowan, Kim Greene, Dee Pregliasco, Raleigh Ridge, Jill Hudson & front Donna Zapata, in Louisville. Below right, Congressman John Yarmuth waits to address the crowd at the march in Louisville.





## League of Women Voters of Kentucky

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## LWV of Kentucky Board Members

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**The Voter Editor:** Ivonne Rovira



Check us out!  
<http://lwvky.org/>  
Twitter: @lwvky

## Calendar

**Saturday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m.:** League of Women Voters of Kentucky Board meeting. **Paul Sawyer Public Library, Frankfort.**

**Tuesday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m.:** League Lobby Day at the Capitol. **Capitol Annex, Frankfort.**

**Tuesday, Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m.:** Lunch. During League Lobby Day **Capitol Annex Cafeteria, Frankfort.**

**Friday-Saturday, March 31-April 1:** State Convention. **Lang House, Louisville.**